MARVEL
4
REVENGE OF THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER
HOPELESS
HEPBURN
FABELA
PARENTAL ADVISORY
HEP

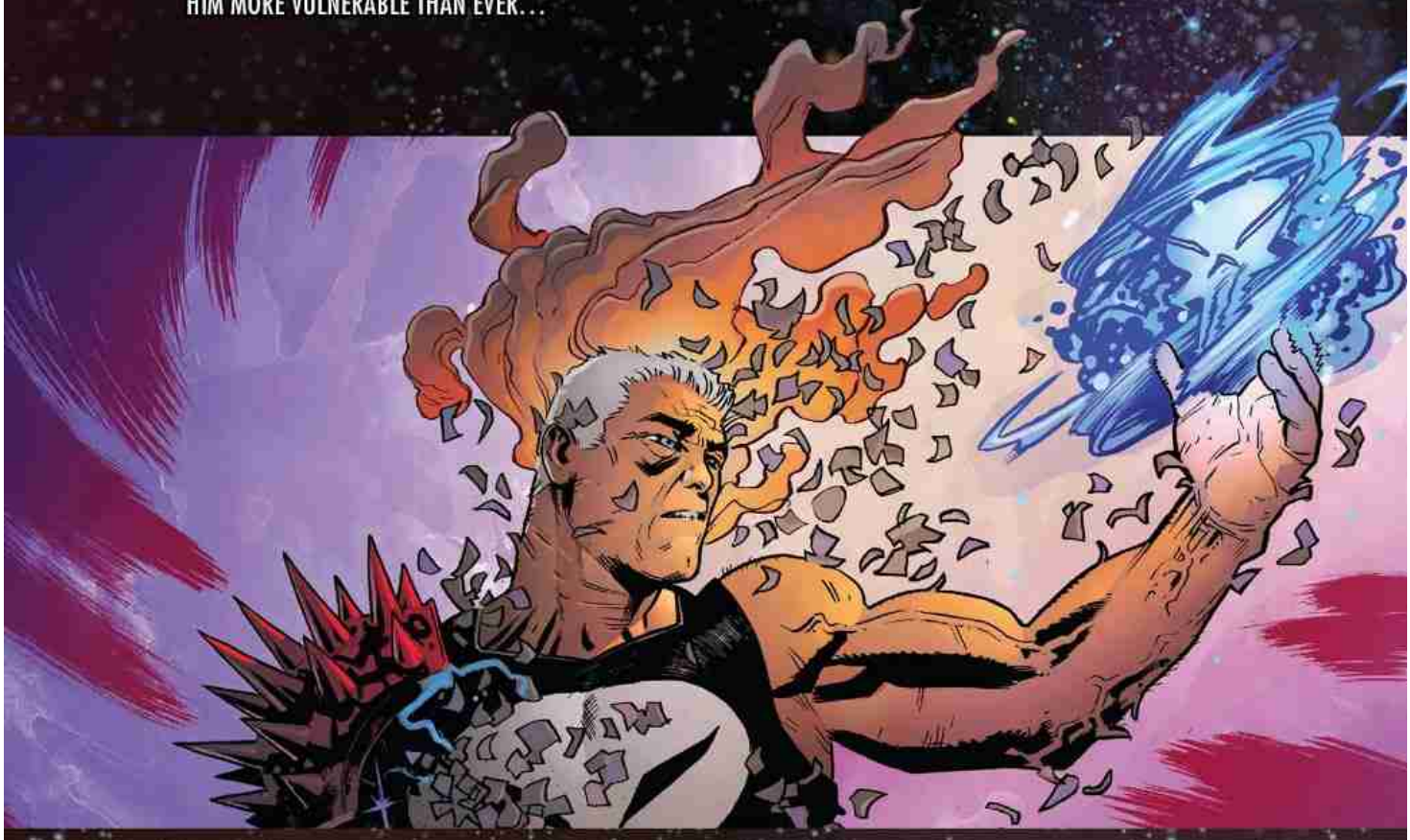
FRANK CASTLE HAS BEEN TO HELL AND BACK. HE'S BEEN THE PUNISHER, A GHOST RIDER, A HERALD OF GALACTUS, THE BLACK RIGHT HAND OF THANOS AND EVEN (FOR A MINUTE) A GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY. BUT NOW FRANK IS GETTING BACK TO HIS ROOTS, RIDING THROUGH THE COSMOS, SEEKING THOSE THAT DESERVE PUNISHMENT!

REVENGE OF THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER

PART 4 OF 5

THROWN THROUGH A BLACK HOLE, CAMMI HAS BECOME A CASUALTY OF THE COSMIC GHOST RIDER'S FIGHT WITH THE INTERGALACTIC CRIME LORD, THE COSMIC KING! CONSUMED BY GRIEF, FRANK ATTACKED HIM.

THE ONSLAUGHT ONLY STOPPED WHEN, IN A BID FOR MERCY, THE COSMIC KING OFFERED FRANK SOMETHING HE LOST CENTURIES AGO—HIS MORTAL SOUL! BUT WHILE FRANK MAY BE THRILLED TO BE MADE WHOLE, IT HAS LEFT HIM MORE VULNERABLE THAN EVER…



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EMRY? IS IT DONE? IS IT DONE? IS IT DONE?!
ARISIA... DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH ME WHILE I'M TRYING TO STICK THIS LAST PIECE.
LISTEN, I UNDERSTAND YOU DON'T KNOW WHO THESE ALIEN KIDS ARE.

BUT YOU'LL FIND OUT AND THIS IS WHERE MY PART OF THE STORY JUMPS OFF.
EGO LIVES! 26,375 BRICKS!
WE DID IT! WE DID IT! WE DID IT!
I DID IT.
SO DEAL WITH IT.

LIKE I DID.
WHAT?!
THE ACTUAL?!

@#$ @#$?!

FLMMMP
GAAAAH!

EMRY! I'M SCARED! WHAT IS IT?!
WE SHOULD GO GET DADDY.
NO. SHUT UP. DAD'LL JUST KILL IT.
DON'T WE WANT DADDY TO KILL IT?
NOPE. NO WE DON'T.
=GASP= IT TALKS!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU KIDS TO KEEP QUIET IN HERE?!
OKAY, SEE, THAT'S THE COSMIC KING. BIG BAD MOB BOSS WHO THREW ME THROUGH A WORMHOLE TWO MINUTES AGO BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN TO PISS OFF COSMIC GHOST RIDER.
IT SOUNDS LIKE THE ANNIHILATION WAVE'S CRASHING THROUGH HERE!
DAD HAS AN IMPORTANT MEETING TODAY!
WHICH WOULD MAKE THESE HIS CHILDREN.
WHAT EVEN WAS THAT RACKET?!
N-NOTHING, DADDY.
WE WERE JUST UM...SMASHING MY EGO MODEL TO BITS.
HOW IS HE HERE WHEN A BIG MONSTERED-UP VERSION HAS TO BE BACK FIGHTING FRANK?
HOW DID I SURVIVE AN OPEN-SPACE WORMHOLE VIVISECTION?
DUNNO.
BUT HIS KIDS ARE TERRIBLE LIARS AND CAMMI NEEDS TO PHONE THE EFF HOME.

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PSST. CUTE ALIEN THING... WHERE'D YOU GO.
HERE. SHE WAS RIGHT HERE.
SORRY, KID, I TOTALLY WAS.
BUT THIS E.T.'S REAL STEALTHY.
AND SHE'S GOT BUSINESS WITH DADDY.
SWANK DIGS, KING.
VERY VEGAS MOB MEETS GEORGE JETSON.
WE'RE ABOUT TO BE LATE. HE HATESSSS IT WHEN THINGSSSS ARE LATE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? NATAL LAX TRENCH SLUGSSSS HAVE TO SSSIMMER.
YOU TELL HIM THAT.
SSSEEE WHAT HAPPENSSS.
SHFF

TWO WORDS.
POWER. VACUUM.
THE MAD TITAN WAS BEHEADED THREE DAYS AGO, WHICH MAKES US THREE DAYS LATE SCOOPING UP THAT ACTION.
I WANNA SEE STAR MAPS. I WANNA HEAR PLANS.
TELL ME WHATCHA GOT.
=NOM NOM= SOUNDS REAL GOOD, BOSS. =NOM NOM=
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
THANOS HAS BEEN DEAD FOR ALMOST A YEAR...
HOLY CRAP.
THAT #$% WORMHOLE KNOCKED ME BACK IN TIME.
DID I STUTTER?!
PLANS! NOW!
TOOM
THIS IS MONTHS AGO. BEFORE COSMIC KING GOT BIG.
RIGHT, WELL...WE UM...FIGURED THIS MEETING WAS FOR... YOU KNOW... PLANNING ALL THAT.
CAME TO HEAR YOUR PLANS, BOSS.
MY PLANS? YOU WANNA HEAR MY PLANS?
I PLAN TO EAT THE WHOLE GALAXY IN A SINGLE BITE.
REPLACE THANOS SO FAST--SO COMPLETELY--
--THAT MY PRETTY FACE TURNS ALL PURPLE.
WHICH MEANS TIME IS ON MY SIDE FOR ONCE.
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I CAN GO BACK.
MAYBE IT CRAWLED OUT THE--
IT'S GONE, ARISIA. IT BROKE MY STUPID EGO AND WE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO PLAY WITH IT.
YEAH, BUT IT HAS TO STILL--
JUST SHUT UP. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
OKAY, LISTEN, I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME HERE, SO WE'LL CUT TO THE CHASE.
TOLD YA IT WOULD COME BACK.
I COME FROM THE FUTURE.
YOUR DAD IS ABOUT TO HAVE A BIG-TIME COSMIC VILLAIN GLOW UP...
...WHERE HE BECOMES THE SCARIEST THING IN THE UNIVERSE THAT CARES ABOUT BEING SCARY.
WHICH IS PROBABLY GONNA BE AWESOME FOR YOU TWO.
BECAUSE IF THIS IS YOUR PLAYROOM NOW, JUST IMAGINE WHAT THE CAPITAL C COSMIC KING WILL THROW DOWN.
BUT IT'S NOT SO GREAT FOR ME PERSONALLY AND I'M HOPING YOU KIDS COULD HELP ME GET OFF-WORLD REAL QUICK.
ON THE DL.
IT'S SO WEIRD AND COOL!
I LOVE IT WHEN SHE TALKS. DON'T YOU LOVE HOW SHE TALKS?
DON'T CARE. I WANNA PLAY WITH HER!
GOOD GOD.
C'MERE, WEIRD SPACE THING! EMRY WON'T HURT YA.
ME NEXT! ME NEXT! ME NEXT!
LOOK, I TOOK A SHOT.
SOME KIDS ARE SMART.

SOME ARE FREAKISHLY STRONG.
QUESTION IS, DO I MURDER THEM BOTH NOW?
REGAIN SOME SELF-RESPECT AND TRY TO GET OFF-PLANET SOLO?
OWW!
GIMME!
OR PLAY PUPPY FOR A LITTLE WHILE--
--AND HOPE THEY E.T. ME ON OUT OF HERE IN A FEW DAYS?
KICK
AWW...LOOK AT HER CUTE LITTLE FACEY WACEY!
I'M LEANING TOWARD MURDER.

ANNND... I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE.
REEAAAK!

TOOOSH

REEAAK!
WELL, THERE'S THE OTHER SHOE DROPPING.

RIGHT NOW IS WHEN MY FRIEND FRANK WOULD SPIT A BAD PUN ABOUT PUPPIES AND TEETH.
KA CHUK
BUT I HAVE BETTER IMPULSE CONTROL THAN HIM SO...
WOOF WOOF, YOU HIDEOUS @#$%!
SPACE THING'S A BADASS.
RIGHT?
DIE SCREAMING AND FULL OF HOLES!
FOOOSH
FOOOSH
FOOOSH
THIS IS MOSTLY FOR SHOW.
AN INTERGALACTIC TAPEWORM IS A THING YOU SHOULD RUN AWAY FROM...
BUT I NEED THESE KIDS TO NEED ME.
OKAY, IT'S PROBABLY GONNA DO SOMETHING REAL SCARY NOW, SO GET YOURSELVES READY TO--

RUN!
SEE? REAL SCARY.
THAT EXPLAINS A LOT.
COSMIC KING'S REVENGE BODY DIDN'T COME FROM THE GYM.
IF I HADN'T BEEN HERE TO GET IN THE WAY...
...HE'D BE HOSTING THIS IMPOSSIBLY ANCIENT SPACE DEMON PARASITE.
THIS HIGHLIGHT REEL OF PAST HOSTS--
--KILLERS AND CONQUERORS. FORGOTTEN MONSTERS WHO LEFT NOTHING ALIVE TO REMEMBER THEM--
--WOULD BE ROASTING HIS EYEBALLS. NOT MINE.
WHICH MAKES YOU WONDER, DID THE *MAN* THROW ME BACK IN TIME?
OR WAS IT THE *MONSTER?*
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IT'S BORING INTO MY MIND LIKE ONE OF THOSE GAS-POWERED POST-HOLE DIGGERS.
ROOTING OUT THE WORST OF ME, FORCE-FEEDING IT WHATEVER THAT TERRIBLE POWER IS.
ALL MY RAGE, RESENTMENT AND BITTERNESS. ALL MY PETTY @#$%e.
GROWING AND SPREADING AND BURNING THROUGH ME.
REPLACING EVERYTHING ELSE.
I WAS GONNA SAY IT HURTS, BUT NOW...
...IT FEELS KINDA GOOD--
--FRANK?
OH GOD.
THIS ISN'T ABOUT ME. IT'S NOT ABOUT THE KING.
IT'S ABOUT YOU.
AN ANCIENT PARASITE OLDER THAN THIS UNIVERSE AND THE ONE BEFORE IT--
--WANTS YOU MORE THAN IT HAS EVER WANTED ANYTHING. YOUR DARKNESS. YOUR POWER.
BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE YOU. IT COULDN'T MERGE... NOT WITHOUT YOUR SOUL.
YOU'RE THE BIG FISH, FRANK.
I'M JUST BAIT.
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ENOUGH!
TOOOM
TOOOM
DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT'S YOUR DAMAGE!
GAAH!
BUT I'LL TELL YA!
HUAGH!
I'D THANK COSMIC KING FOR THE SAVE, BUT HE DOES TRY TO KILL ME LATER...
...SO I FEEL LIKE WE'RE EVEN.
YOU PICKED THE WRONG HOUSE!
ON THE WRONG DAY!
KIDS, GET YOUR BUTTS OUTSIDE!
DAD DOESN'T WANT YOU DROWNING IN THIS CREEP'S GORE!
C'MON! C'MON! C'MON!
WUH?!
DADDY!

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WHAT WAS THAT THING?!
WHAT IS HAPPENING?!
CLIFF NOTES--
--YOUR OLD MAN IS FIGHTING TO KEEP PURE EVIL FROM DEVOURING HIS SOUL.
WHAAT?!
YEAH, WHAT'S MORE IMPRESSIVE...
...IS THAT HE SEEMS TO BE HOLDING HIS OWN.
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IS DAD GONNA WIN?
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
KRAAK

THAT THING BLEW COSMIC GHOST RIDER OUT LIKE A BIRTHDAY CANDLE. DADDY'S SOUL IS DONE FOR.
HEY! THAT'S MY JETPACK!
AND IF I DON'T GO WARN MY FRIEND RIGHT QUICK--

--SO IS THE WHOLE DAMNED GALAXY.
YOU'RE LEAVING US?!
I MEAN...I'M LEAVING...

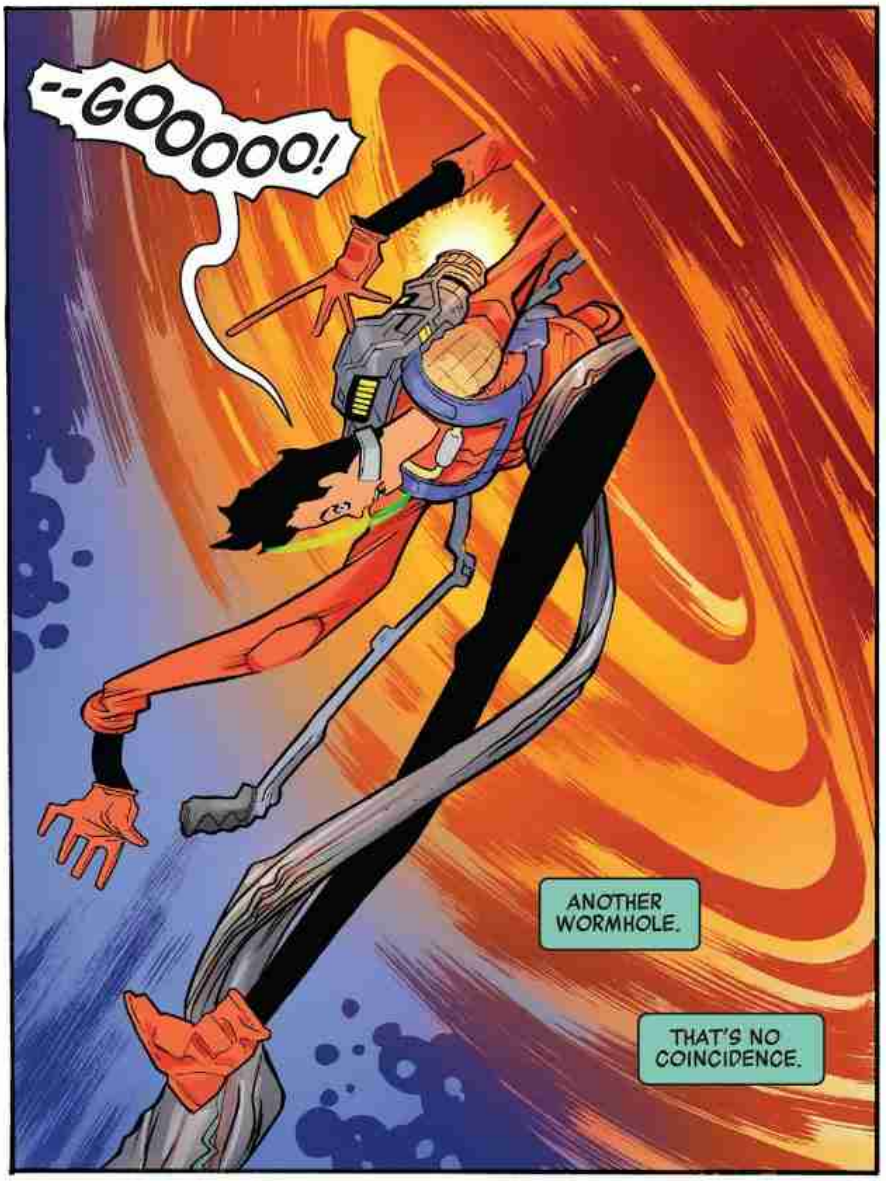
...NOT EVERYTHING IS ABOUT YOU, KID.
B-B-BUT...
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!

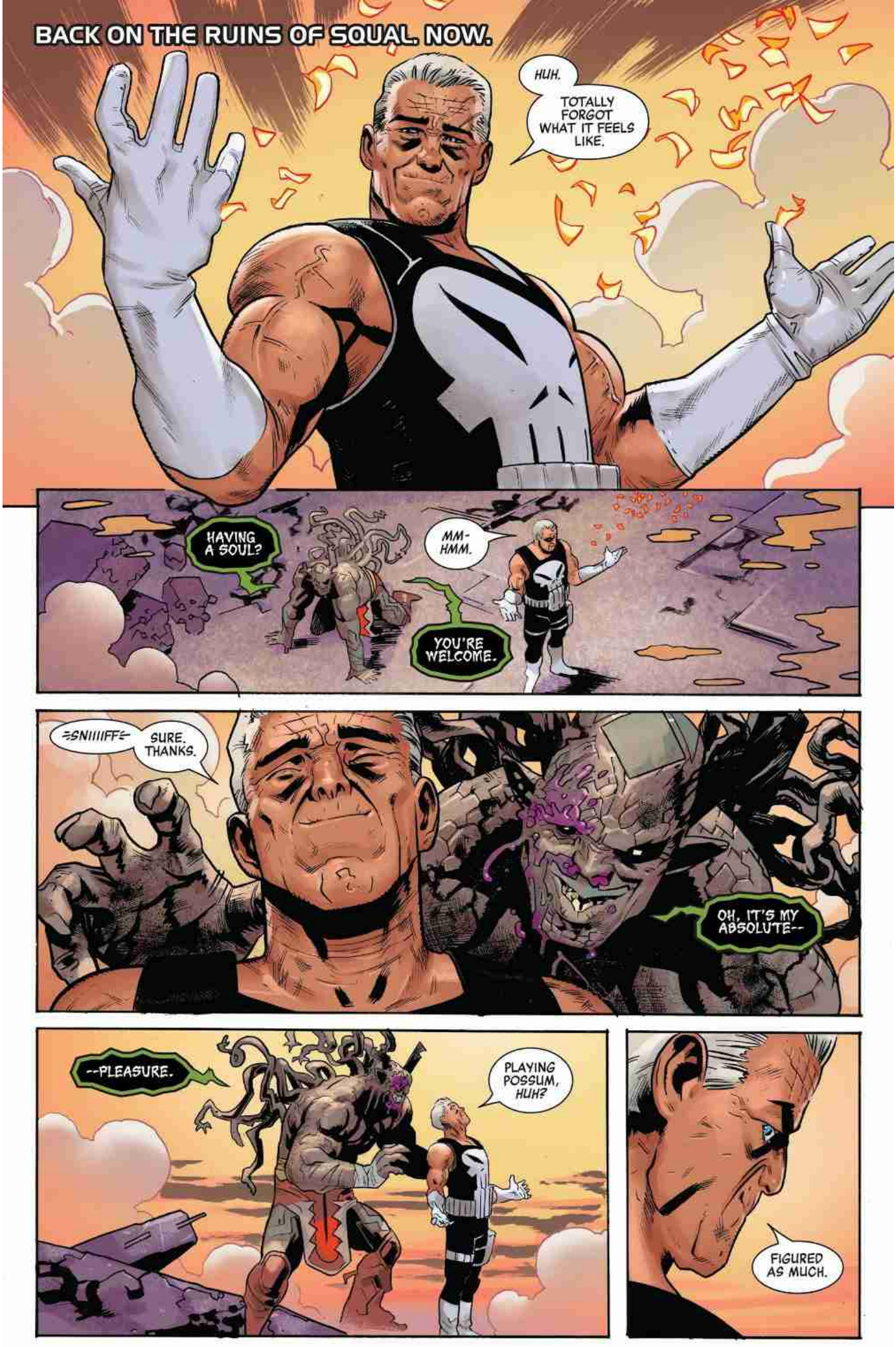
WHATEVER. COSMIC KING'S THEIR DAD.
IF HE'S GONNA SPARE ANY TWO CREATURES ON THAT PLANET, IT'LL BE THEM.
BESIDES--

--I'M IN A REAL SECURE-YOUR-OWN-OXYGEN-MASK-BEFORE-HELPING-OTHERS PLACE RIGHT NOW.
IF I DON'T SAVE MY OWN BUTT...
...IF I CAN'T STOP FRANK FROM TAKING HIS SOUL BACK...

...THEN THAT TAPEWORM IS GONNA HAVE HIS POWER COSMIC, AND WE'RE ALL BURNT TOAST.
LEEEAVING SO SOON, CAMMI?
OH #$% OFF.

LEMME--


--GOOOOO!
ANOTHER WORMHOLE.
THAT'S NO COINCIDENCE.



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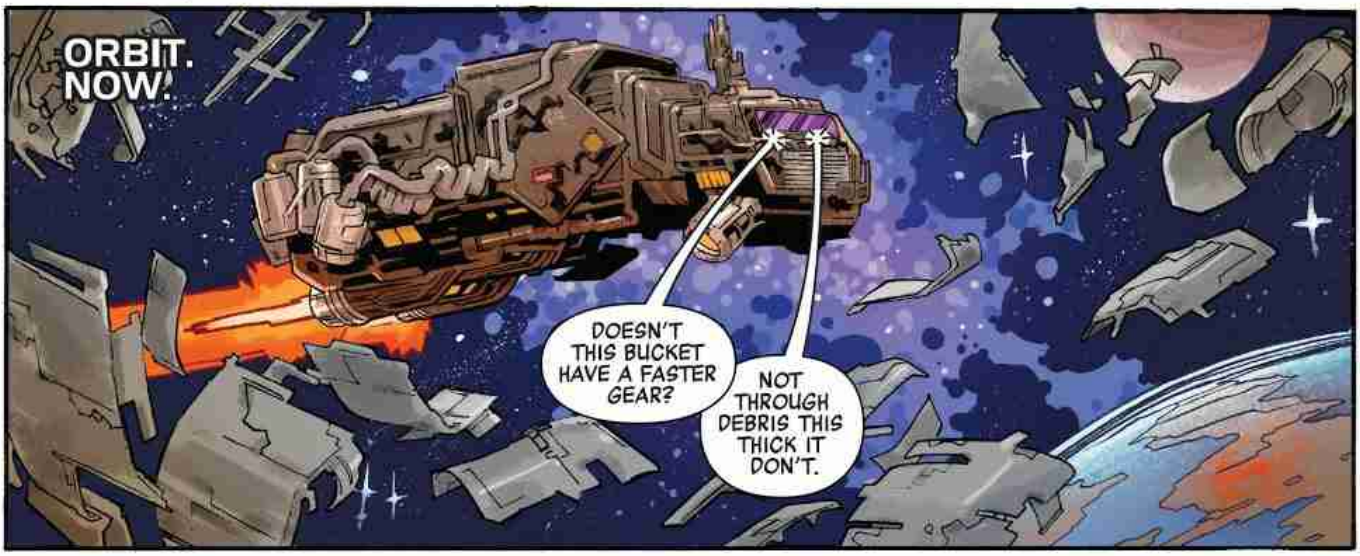

ORBIT. NOW.
DOESN'T THIS BUCKET HAVE A FASTER GEAR?
NOT THROUGH DEBRIS THIS THICK IT DON'T.

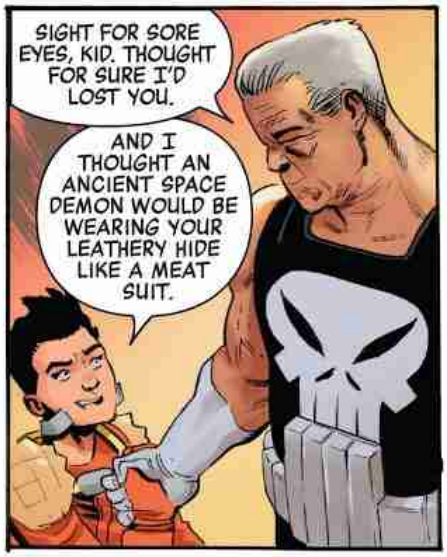
YOU'RE TELLING ME IT TOOK SEVEN MONTHS TO BEG, BORROW AND STEAL MY WAY BACK HERE AND NOW I'M GONNA BE TOO LATE TO FIX IT BECAUSE SOME TRUCKER'S WORRIED ABOUT HIS @#$% PAINT JOB?!
CAMMI...I'VE ASKED YOU TO STOP CALLING ME "SOME TRUCKER."
YEAH, WELL, IT'S BEEN A DISAPPOINTING DAY FOR US BOTH.

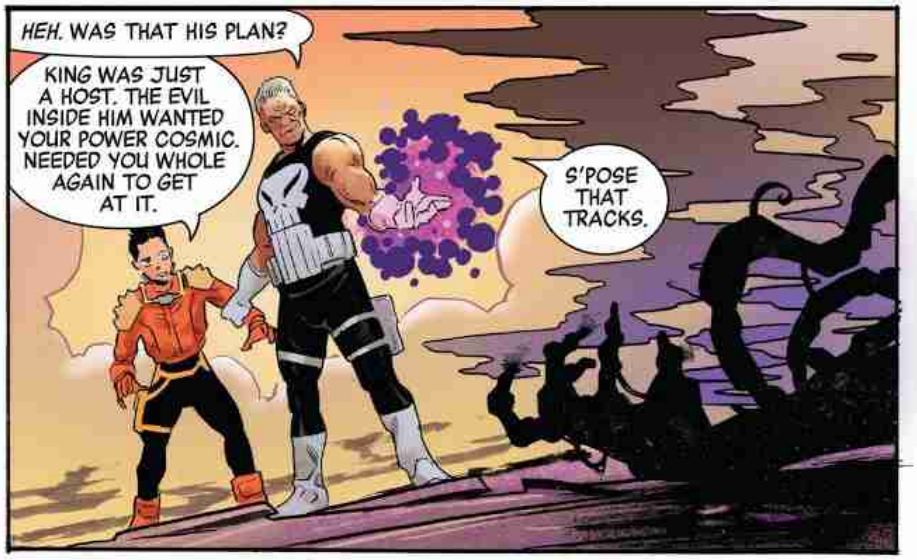
THANKS FOR THE LIFT, MORN.

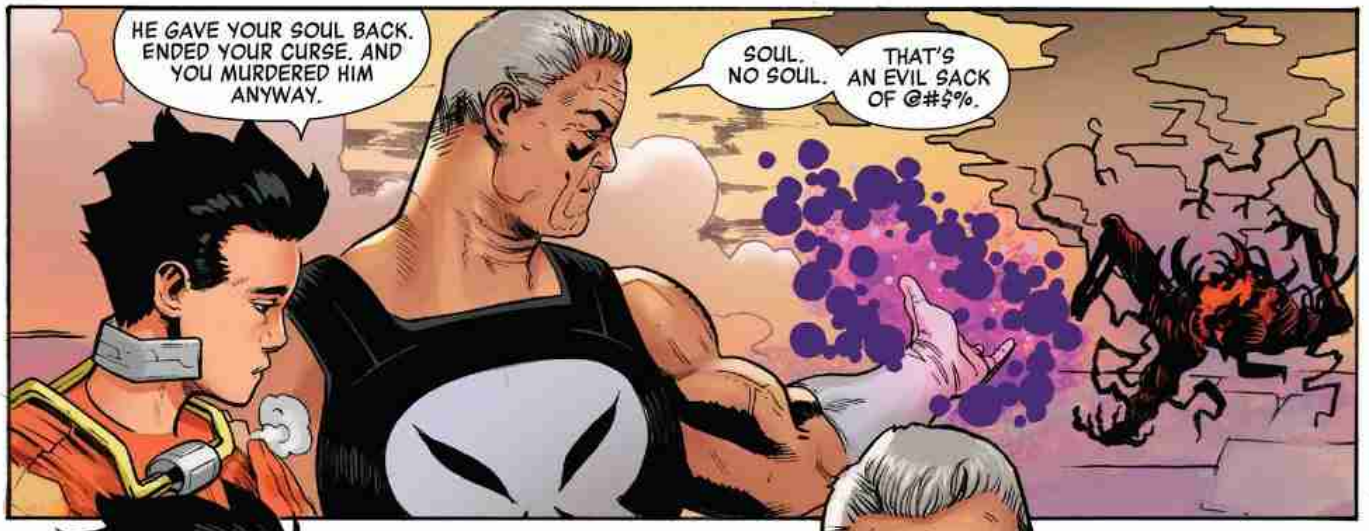
=SIGH=
TEENAGERS.

C'MON! C'MON! C'MON! C'MON!
PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE NOT THAT STUPID, FRANK.
PLEASE TELL ME I'M--

NOT!
TOO!
LATE!
CAMMI?!
HOW IN HELL ARE YOU ALIVE?
=COUGH= BAD LUCK.


SIGHT FOR SORE EYES, KID. THOUGHT FOR SURE I'D LOST YOU.
AND I THOUGHT AN ANCIENT SPACE DEMON WOULD BE WEARING YOUR LEATHERY HIDE LIKE A MEAT SUIT.


HEH. WAS THAT HIS PLAN?
KING WAS JUST A HOST. THE EVIL INSIDE HIM WANTED YOUR POWER COSMIC. NEEDED YOU WHOLE AGAIN TO GET AT IT.
S'POSE THAT TRACKS.


HE GAVE YOUR SOUL BACK. ENDED YOUR CURSE. AND YOU MURDERED HIM ANYWAY.
SOUL. NO SOUL.
THAT'S AN EVIL SACK OF @#$%.

YEAH.
AND I'M THE GODDAMNED PUNISHER.
ABOUT THAT...

THE SOUL YOU'RE WEARING IS UNLAWFULLY OBTAINED PROPERTY OF PANDEMONIUM.
WHICH PUTS YOU IN BREACH OF CONTRACT, CASTLE.
WE HAD A DEAL. YOU GOT YOUR ETERNITY OF VENGEANCE.
SOMEBODY OWES ME A SOUL.
I GAVE IT. YOU LOST IT.
FINDERS KEEPERS, DEMON.
YOU WANT MY SOUL BACK, COME AND GET IT.
I'M NOT AN UNREASONABLE FELLOW, FRANK.
AND I'M NOT SPOILING FOR A FIGHT WITH A SOCIOPATHIC HERALD OF GALACTUS EITHER.
THE CONTRACT DOESN'T EXPLICITLY STATE WHOSE SOUL I HAVE TO TAKE.
SO LONG AS I GET A SOUL.
F-FRANK...
YEAH, THAT'S NOT GOOD.

WHAT?
NO!
HERE'S ONE THAT WILL DO--
FRANNNK!
--NICELY.
STOP IT!
NO.
CAMMI?
HELP MEEEE!
PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.
TO BE CONCLUDED!

NEXT: FRANK CASTLE RETURNS TO HELL IN THIS EXPLOSIVE SERIES FINALE!

NEBULA #3

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #4

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